MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 DECEMBER 1981

Golan Heights Law

Knesset Vote, Israeli Comment -- Jerusalem radio announced that the Knesset approved by a vote of 63 to 21 a Cabinet decision to apply Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to the territory of the Golan Heights, effective immediately. During the Knesset debate on the decision, broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Begin asserted that the Golan Heights "has been and will remain an integral part of Eretz Yisra'el." He defended the Cabinet decision by claiming that in the past Syria made life unbearable for the civilian population living below the Golan Heights and that Syria completely denies Israel's right to exist. Begin also quoted Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as saying in his recent interview with a Kuwaiti paper that Syria will not recognize the State of Israel even if the PLO does. However, according to the monitored text of the interview, published by AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on 13 December, Al-Asad did not say this.

Jerusalem radio reported on 15 December that Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan was called back early from a visit to Egypt because of developments since the passage of the Golan Heights Law. The radio also noted that the IDF has taken "all the necessary measures" in the Golan Heights in view of the possibility of Syrian troop movements or of terrorist attempts to harass Golan Heights settlements.

Terming the Golan Heights Law an exercise in "monumental self-deception," the Jerusalem POST said it was a snap decision "shoved down the Knesset's throat" without time for deliberation. The POST asserted that the act has placed Israel in violation of UN Resolution 242, the basis of all peace negotiations, and has assured Syria of the support of the world community. According to Jerusalem radio, HA'ARETZ said Israel will find it difficult to justify the application of Israeli sovereignty to a territory outside the League of Nations mandate by citing the fact that Syria is not ready to sign a peace treaty. The radio also reported DAVAR's opinion that the government did not understand the gravity of the situation when it created a legislative fait accompli. The radio later cited a MA'ARIV editorial asserting that the speed with which the law was passed shows the government's weakness, because apparently it did not trust its ability to withstand pressure on the issue. MA'ARIV questioned whether the law is necessary.

Syrian Denunciation -- Damascus radio reported that Syria requested the immediate convocation of the UN Security Council to discuss the "dangerous, aggressive" Israeli measure, which it said confirms Israeli expansionism, insolence and arrogance. A Syrian Government statement broadcast later by the radio, charging that the Israeli decision means the annexation of "occupied Syrian territory," added that it also means the cancellation of the cease-fire between Israel and Syria. It said Syria reserves the right to take the "appropriate measures" against this "blatant violation" of the UN Charter and resolutions. SANA noted that Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam summoned the ambassadors of the states that are permanent members of the UN Security Council to convey to them Syria's rejection of the Israeli move.

Damascus radio also reviewed an ATH-THAWRAH article promising Syrian retaliation for the "Zionist provocation." The Golan, it said, is Syrian and will remain so.

Egyptian Rejection -- A statement by an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman carried by MENA's English service asserted that Israel's decision on the Golan Heights is a violation of the framework of the Middle East peace concluded on 17 September 1979 and of the UN Security Council resolution on which the Camp David agreements are based. The statement declared Egypt's "categorical rejection" of the Israeli measure, which it termed null, void and illegal. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali later issued a press statement, reported by MENA, reiterating Egypt's rejection. Other MENA reports noted that 'Ali met separately with the U.S. and Israeli ambassadors to Egypt to inform them of Egypt's position.

Jerusalem television reported that the head of the Egyptian delegation to the autonomy talks in Tel Aviv, Tahir Shash, requested the cancellation of the 14 December afternoon meeting of the working teams because of the Cabinet decision. But Jerusalem radio reported the next morning that the meeting had taken place. It said the participants did not discuss the autonomy plan at all, but agreed to meet again on 15 December.

Other Reaction -- In an interview with Monte Carlo radio, PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi termed the Israeli move "obvious evidence" of Israel's expansionism and rejection of peace. He held the United States responsible for Israel's "aggressive" policy. An article in the Jordanian paper AR-RA'Y, reviewed by Amman radio, blamed the Israeli action on Arab disunity and stressed that solidarity and unified action are necessary to fight the Israeli challenge.

Citing Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, SPA reported that the Saudi Council of Ministers confirmed its total condemnation of the "illegal" Israeli measure, which it said contradicts all international laws and traditions. KUNA reported Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn's condemnation of the move, while Beirut radio broadcast a denunciation of it by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon reported that a 15 December car bomb explosion outside the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut killed 20 people and wounded more than 100. The Iraqi ambassador was reported uninjured.

Syria

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Syrian authorities have arrested scores of supporters of Khalid Bakdash's wing of the Syrian Communist Party.

Jordan

PETRA-JNA reported that Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim gave the U.S. ambassador a message for Secretary of State Alexander Haig expressing Jordan's "pain and sorrow" over the U.S. decision to extradite Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to Israel.

Bahrain

WAKH reported that five armed men presented a memorandum to the Bahraini Embassy in Tehran in which they claimed responsibility for the group arrested in Bahrain for sabotage. They called on Bahrain to release the detainees, WAKH said. The Manama paper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ said that during interrogation the saboteurs admitted receiving training in Iran. Citing the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA', QNA reported that Kuwaiti, Saudi and UAE nationals are among the 57 arrested members of the sabotage group. Manama television noted that Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah condemned the sabotage attempt, describing it as a flagrant interference in Bahrain's affairs aimed at creating disturbances and anarchy.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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OFFICIALS ATTEND PARTY MEETING IN QANDAHAR

LD150954 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Kabul, 14 Dec (BAKHTAR) -- Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, members of the Political Bureau and secretaries of the Central Committee of PDPA, took part in the session of the party activists of south zone held in Qandahar Province.

Speaking at the session they stressed the unity and cohesion of the party and told the party activists to protect the unity of the party and adhere strictly to the party discipline and party norms.

Dr Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur called upon the party activists to be always at the service of the people and establish a close link with the masses, explain to them the lofty aims of the party and the government of the revolutionary Afghanistan. They should win over their hearts and minds and expose the criminal acts of imperialism and forces of reaction, their designs and conspiracies against the DRA, mobilising public opinion against them.

Dr Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, on arrival in Qandahar city paid homage to Khirque Mobarak (where the holy clothes of Prophet Mohammad are preserved), and prayed for the soul of Mohammad, the [word indistinct] prophet of [word indistinct].

Before their departure for Kabul, Dr Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur participated in a mass rally.

BALUCHI LEADER REPORTEDLY FLEES TO KABUL

GF111415 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 11 Dec 81 p 1

["From our correspondent"]

[Text] Karachi -- Sardar Khair Bux Marri, chief of the Marri tribe of Baluchistan and leader of the defunct National Democratic Party, has reached Afghanistan with his family.

This was disclosed here yesterday by his close associate, Mir Ghaus Bux Bizenjo, former Baluchistan governor and president of the defunct Pakistan National Party.

Mir Bizenjo said his source was Mir Balakh Sher Mazari. He said Sardar Marri had first gone to England. Having failed to stay there, he went to France, and had now gone to Afghanistan.

Another influential Baluchistan leader, Sardar Ataullah Khan Mengal, is already in Britain. He was chief minister of Baluchistan during the Bhutto government until his government was dismissed and he was held to face sedition charges.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENTS WITH GDR -- Kabul, 12 Dec (BAKHTAR) -- A number of technical and educational agreements were concluded here today between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and German Democratic Republic. Under these agreements, a number of scholarships will be provided to the qualified students of the vocational schools of the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education by GDR and the exchange of students in various academic and technical fields will be expanded. Under another cultural and educational protocol signed between the two sides, the cultural and educational cooperation between Kabul University and Humbolt University of Berlin will be expanded further and lecturers and authorized delegations of both countries will pay visits to the technical and scientific centres of each other annually. [Excerpt] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 13 Dec 81 LD]

FRG'S LAMBSDORFF HOLDS TALKS IN DELHI, COMMENTS

BK141709 Hong Kong AFP in English 0621 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] New Delhi, 14 Dec (AFP) -- West Germany today pledged economic support and assistance to Poland to help overcome its economic difficulties.

"We will continue with our economic help. The Polish nation should solve their problems themselves without any outside interference," West German Economic Affairs Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff said here today.

Dr Lambsdorff is on a 2-day visit to the Indian capital to exchange ideas on the global economy with Indian leaders and to give an impetus to the growing trade and cooperation between the two countries.

"We are surprised and shocked at the developments in Poland and we sincerely hope that the Poles will solve their problems themselves," Dr Lamsdorff told newsmen at Delhi's Palam Airport.

He was received by the Indian Minister for Commerce Pranab Murkherjee with whom he will have wide-ranging talks on Indian-German trade and cooperation.

"The economic decline of Poland has to be stopped, but not at the cost of the civil rights and labour freedom that the Poles have got after months of struggle," he said.

Dr Lambsdorff said he did not forsee any immediate foreign intervention in Poland. "I do not think there is an imminent danger but the situation there is full of tension and danger. We hope it will not lead to bloodbath in Poland," he said.

Dr Lambsdorff described the summit talks between West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and East German leader Eric Honecker as "very important." He also took part in the weekend Schmidt-Honecker talks, twice postponed last year, once after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and once because of uncertainty about how Soviet bloc allies would react to strikes in Poland.

On Indo-German trade and cooperation, Dr Lambsdorff said there was lot of scope for improving and expanding trade and cooperation.

"I have great respect for Prime Minister Gandhi and I would like to exchange ideas with her and other Indian leaders on further development of trade and bilateral relations," he said.

"India played a very important role in Cancun... and I wish I will be able to exchange ideas with Indian leaders," he added.

Welcoming the visiting minister, Mr Mukherjee said, "We have a lot to discuss and see that our trade relations go up further.... We have excellent relations and I am sure we will find new areas of cooperation."

This is the second visit of Dr Lambsdorff to India this year. Last August he went to the west coast of Bombay to inaugurate the silver jubliee celebration of the Indo-German chamber of commerce.

During his stay the German minister will call on Indian President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and will hold talks with five ministers holding economic-related portfolios.

BULGARIAN, FRG OFFICIALS MEET WITH REDDY

BK150949 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Georgi Yordoanov called on President Sanjiva Reddy in New Delhi today.

Economic Affairs Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Otto Graf Lambsdorff also called on the president this morning.

AGREEMENT REACHED WITH FRG ON SUBMARINE SALE

LD121626 Hamburg DPA in German 1437 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 12 Dec (DPA) -- The German-Indian submarine deal is in the bag. After protracted negotiations lasting over 4 years, representatives of Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft AGN (HDW) and of the Indian Government at the Defense Ministry in New Delhi last night signed the agreements for the delivery of two submarines by HDW and for the construction under licence of another two submarines in India. The signing means that possible differences about a delay of this DM800 million project have been cleared up 2 days before the visit of Federal Economics Minister von Lambsdorff.

The agreement provides for the construction in the Federal Republic of two conventional submarines of the HDW-1 500 type adjusted to Indian requirements and the building under licence of another two submarines of the same type at the Indian state shipyard Mazagon Docks Ltd in Bombay. As part of the agreements, about 350 Indians will be trained in stages in Germany. During the construction under licence about 10 German experts will be available as advisers in India.

The first submarine will be delivered about 4 years after the conclusion of the contract and the second 6 months later. The extensive transfer of technology from the Federal Republic to India covered by the agreement will start earlier. The materials for the construction under licence will be shipped to India in a year.

It was stated in New Delhi today that the exchange of notes by the governments to put the final seal on the deal will take place in Bonn next week. The Federal Government gave its "blessing" to the arms deal months ago in the form of a verbal note.

EXPRESS: MIRAGE DEAL OFF; MIG-27 DEAL POSSIBLE

BK141720 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] New Delhi, 14 Dec (AFP) -- India has decided not to purchase the French Mirage-2000 fighter plane in favour of the Soviet MiG-27's, the opposition INDIAN EXPRESS reported today.

Quoting sources in Washington the paper also said that Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is about to sign, or may have already initialed, a new large military equipment procurement programme with the Soviet Union.

The large number of senior Soviet military and foreign office visitors in and out of New Delhi in recent weeks has heightened suspicion in the Indian capital that some momentous new Soviet-Indian agreement is within sight, the INDIAN EXPRESS said.

The conservative daily also mentioned speculation of some French circles that negotiations for the purchase of the Mirage was a subterfuge to get French support for the SDR 5 billion IMF loan to India which Washington had quietly opposed.

MUSAVI ON ECONOMY, WAR, INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

LD141428 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Dec 81

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi by Central News Unit correspondent on 13 December, place of interview not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [question indistinct]

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The United States has always had special designs on this region, because this region is of special importance for the West from the strategic viewpoint. The Middle East has always been at the center of the East's and West's strategies. This is natural with the developments taking place in this region, especially the powerful Islamic revolution under Imam Khomeyni's leadership and other regional developments. We are not surprised that the United States is intensifying its activities in this region. It is also natural to consider the U.S. activities in this region within the framework of the overall U.S. strategies for the Middle East. But the conclusion which may be drawn for the immediate future in general is that Phillip Habib's Middle East tour, for example, is aimed at hatching fresh plots in the region, creating chaos in southern Lebanon, and preparing the ground in order to bring pressure to bear on the progressive Arab countries.

We are currently witnessing an example of this in the case of Libya, with the American experts leaving that country. Libya is the subject of a series of political pressures and even other countries [as heard]. The aim behind these pressures is to break the resistance in the North African countries. Here I would like to declare our full support for the fraternal Government of Libya. We are ready to send our oil experts to Libya to fill the gap, and undoubtedly the determined Muslims of North Africa will not surrender to U.S. pressures and conspiracies.

Concerning the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel, there is the topic of a wider issue, including the promotion of the reactionary regimes associated with the United States in the region, thus intensifying pressure on progressive and radical countries and launching Israel as the basic axis for the realization of U.S. policies in the region.

Of course, the effects of such cooperation and strategies not only threaten the fraternal Syrian Government, the Palestinian resistance and the Arab progressive countries which pursue a policy of hostility toward Israel and Zionism, but this cooperation is a direct threat to the region and our Islamic revolution.

From our viewpoint the U.S. activities and its massing of troops near the holy territories of Mecca and Medina have recently been intensified. Activities such as landing troops and so forth -- of course, such developments will ultimately result in uniting the muslims of the regions.

[question on Poland indistinct]

[Answer] From what we have gathered from the news, they say they had no choice but to maintain the peace. But here I would like to declare the government's overall belief. We believe that right is on the side of the nations. Any movement that decides to stand against the people's will and move against the nation's will is, of course, condemned to be defeated and we condemn such effort. Of course, we do hope that what happened in Czechoslovakia and other East European countries where the Soviet Union has interfered militarily will not happen in Poland. We are waiting for fresh news to clarify the situation for us. Sufficient news is not yet at our disposal.

[Question] My next question concerns the state of the nation's economy and the government's policies in this sphere.

[Answer] Concerning the government's economic policies, I hope to discuss the matter in detail in a separate program.

At the moment what I would like to say is only in connection with the war. When this war was imposed on us, the Iraqis had virtually $36 billion in reserves; our reserves were smaller than those of the Iraqis. The first week the war started, it was followed by [word indistinct], the economic pressures which the Western world specially brought to bear on us and pressures resulting from the war expenditures. As we analyze the situation, we come to the conclusion that as a result of the people's dedication and economizing, and martyr Raja'i's vast efforts and those of the cabinets which preceeded him, we are now in a situation in which Iraq with those reserves drew a $14-billion loan, but in our case without borrowing even 1 cent from our friends we have been able to stand on our own feet and are striding toward creating an independent economy.

All the programs drawn up by the Supreme Economic Council and the Cabinet contain the concept of moving toward savings, an independent economy and self-sufficiency, realizing the people's aspiration of true independence, revitalizing the industries and reducing their dependence on foreign aid. The war itself has helped us to move in this direction toward long-term planning of revitalizing our basic industries in the next few years. These are our plans that the government is trying to realize.

As regards the fate of our important foreign agreements, we have not yet reached a final decision. We have not attended to them because of existing domestic problems, but they will be individually discussed in the Supreme Economic Council, their fate will be determined, and our policy with regard to these agreements will be clarified. We are moving toward the idea of formulating our relations with the outside world so we will know what our stands are. Efforts will be made to remove any vague points and make these relations sound.

[Question] My last question concerns the recent war victories. How do you see the future of the war?

[Answer] We warn the Iraqi Armed Forces that if they continue their presence in our territory, not only will they be dealt severe blows and will suffer more casualties than they have already sustained, but they will see that our forces have no choice but to launch and take the offensive into Iraqi territory. We hope the Iraqi Armed Forces will understand this reality. Here I would like to repeat the fact that the Iraqi officers, especially the soldiers, do not wish to continue the war. Many Iraqis have taken refuge in Iran, mainly in order not to fight the war and not to become Saddam's soldiers.

However, we hope this war will end soon. Of course, we do not want to kill forces which could serve the cause of construction, but we are forced to deal our blows in order to bring to its knees the regime associated with the world oppresser; to crush it, although we have already crushed it. This is equivalent to freeing millions of men who are oppressed by a suppressive and heretic regime. God willing, with the help of the combatants of Islam we will achieve this end.

CABINET CONSIDERING ADVANCE INTO IRAQI TERRITORY

LD131654 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran held a session last night. This session began with the recitation of verses from the holy Koran and was chaired by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

In this session, after reading a part from the decree issued by the lord of the believers, 'Ali, may peace be upon him, to Malik Ashtar [one of Imam 'Ali's officials] and analyzing it as a guideline for a government which is in the service of Islam and the Islamic nation, the recent victories achieved by the combatants of Islam on the western fronts of the country and also the shaky position of the pro-American regime of Saddam were studied and the Cabinet praised the bravery and self-sacrifices of the heroes of Islam.

In this session, it was also announced: If Saddam's pro-American regime continues its foolhardiness, attacks into Iraqi territory will be seriously considered.

According to our correspondent, in this session talks and discussions were held on the struggles of the martyred Ayatollah Dastgheyb before the victory of the Islamic revolution, during the deposed shah's American regime, and also on the effective role of that crusading thinker after the victory of the Islamic revolution. The Cabinet announced in a statement that it would take part in ceremonies commemorating the martyrdom of martyr Ayatollah Dastgheyb, which will be held on the imam's orders at the Martyr Motahhari School.

Then the prime minister made a speech about the drafts and bills raised in the Majlis and emphasized the necessity of a careful awareness by the ministers of the aforesaid drafts and bills.

Then Mr Gharazi, the oil minister, submitted a report on his recent journey to and his participation in the OPEC conference and referred to the conspiracies of the arch-Satan and America's reactionary agents in the region. He said: Although the recent victories achieved by the army of Islam on the fronts have made them more frightened, since the designs of devils are doomed to failure, the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation in this conference had spectacular results. [sentence as heard]

In this session discussions and debates were also held on the oil policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and decisions were made in this connection.

Then Mr Banki, supervisor of the Plan and Budget Organization, submitted the government's fiscal report for the past 9 months, including figures on savings. It was decided that the credits resulted from savings being allocated to expenditure on the imposed war and on the country's development.

Then the prime minister referred to daily increases in production and said: It is a mortal sin to postpone to tomorrow efforts we can make today toward increasing production.

His report also stated: In the Cabinet session several suggestions made by the economy, finance, defense, and political commissions were raised and approved.

According to our correspondent's report, at the conclusion of last night's Cabinet session, which lasted for 4 hours, Mr Asgharnya was appointed governor general of Kordestan.

MUSAVI INTERVIEWED ON 14 DEC CABINET SESSION

LD141816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi spoke to correspondents today at the conclusion of today's Cabinet meeting.

Commenting on the possibility of a future Cabinet reshuffle, the prime minister said: There is no need for a Cabinet reshuffle. The present Cabinet is coordinated, united and energetic, and our brothers are getting on with their tasks quite well, working even harder than is expected of them.

Commenting on the question of the Red Cross tour of Iraqi POW camps, the prime minister said: The Red Cross has already toured the Iraqi POW camps several times and has made reports. Any time the Red Cross wishes to visit the Iraqi POW's, the door is open and they are welcome to do so. Even responsible foreign journalists and all impartial persons can tour and visit Iranian camps where the Iraqi POW's are kept.

The prime minister added: In return, we expect the Red Cross to visit our POW's in Iraq. This is because we see danger in the Iraqis recently alleging that we have killed 1,500 Iraqi POW's. Of course, we have strongly condemned this allegation. But this is a conspiracy which can perhaps threaten Iranian POW's in Iraq. We firmly request that responsible world authorities work in this direction.

The prime minister also answered questions by the Central News Unit correspondent, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, would you be good enough to brief us on the topics discussed at today's Cabinet meeting?

[Musavi] The Cabinet paid tribute to [outgoing interior minister] Nikravesh for services rendered during his term of office. The Cabinet discussed his resignation and a question was raised as to why the letter addressed to the Majlis [by Prime Minister Musavi introducing Majlis Deputy 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri as the new interior minister] did not make any reference to Mr Nikravesh's resignation. The reply was that the letter addressed to the Majlis had been written in accordance with clause 133 of the Constitution which indicates the reason for appointing a new minister is resignation of the present minister and nothing else.

[Question] Could you reveal why he resigned?

[Answer] Our brother held other positions and perhaps he wanted to continue with his other work. Nevertheless, he will remain at the government's side and will participate in the struggle that is being pursued by the entire Iranian people.

[Question] We expected to be informed of the appointment of the government's spokesman simultaneously with the appointment of the minister of foreign affairs.

[Answer] I think that within the next few days, God willing, when we get the Majlis' confirmation of the appointment of the minister of foreign affairs and the interior minister, we will announce the appointment of a government spokesman. [end recording]

PETROLEUM MINISTRY OFFERS TO ASSIST LIBYA

LD151138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Petroleum Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in connection with possible (?shortages) caused by the withdrawal of American experts and the creation of an atmosphere of pressure on the brother nation of Libya by the world-devouring American Government, announced that the Petroleum Ministry is prepared to enter into any cooperation concerning oil matters with the brother nation of Libya. Further, under the present circumstances, that ministry would assist the Libyan brothers against the American conspiracy by sending experts and technical equipment.

PETROLEUM MINISTER REPORTS ON OPEC CONFERENCE

LD121438 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch, Mr Seyyed Mohammad Gharazi, our country's petroleum minister, and his entourage returned to Tehran this morning. Following his return from the OPEC conference in Abu Dhabi, the Iranian petroleum minister said the following about the opinions of various agencies on the possibility of reducing the price of Iranian oil: Certain OPEC countries aim at both reducing the price of oil and grabbing the market from us. For this reason we announced at this conference that Iran will carry out any action necessary to regain its market and will defend its interests.

Pertaining to the effect our recent victory on the fronts had on the conference, he said: The recent victory achieved by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Gilan-e Gharb fronts greatly strengthened our position in that conference toward the end of the session. It is combativeness that can further strengthen the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of the political games being played by the minions of the superpowers.

In connection with the talks between the OPEC oil ministers in Abu Dhabi, our correspondent interviewed the Iranian petroleum minister.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Gharazi, it transpires from what was issued by the OPEC conference bureau that despite the 2-day extension the conference ended its work without making any major decisions to defend the interests of the OPEC member-countries. This was due to pressure from Saudi Arabia and other friends of the United States at that conference. Thus, the conference was, in effect, put in a situation where it may again reduce the price of oil. Could you please tell us what major decisions OPEC took with regard to the price of oil and to its agenda?

[Answer] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to the imam of the Islamic nation and to all combatants on the battlefield.

Of course, pressure was brought to bear and there were also acts of resistance. As you may well know, the conference faced resistance for some 2 days, so much so that they did not succeed in bringing down all the crude oil prices. In the previous conference the price of crude oil was put at $34 on the basis of light Saudi oil, and this time too, it remained the same. The issue which concerned us was our heavy oil in the Persian Gulf, the like of which is also possessed both by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The pressure brought to bear by Saudi Arabia, particularly the speech delivered by Yamani in connection with making a Christmas gift, was aimed at reducing the price by half a dollar. As you know, most of the oil currently exported by Saudi Arabia is heavy crude oil. In other words, the half a dollar would produce an all-round effect on the payments position of the Western world. We put up resistance in order to prevent this from happening and the fact that the deliberations lasted for another 1 and 1/2 days was to have served this purpose. But the fact that we yielded a little in this respect, as you may well know, came so that we will remain in a position, from our clients' point of view, whereby we can continue to sell oil as we do now. In principle, agreement should have been reached, but there was no agreement. The difficulty here is that in our present circumstances we are not in a position whereby we can always keep our customers at prices which we wish to charge. This is why a part of our oil, our heavy oil, was made somewhat cheaper, by about 2 percent. However, the overall picture is not like that; our light oil remains intact and our heavy oil has had its price slightly reduced in competition with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

[Question] Could you please tell us at what prices Iran is to sell its oil on the export markets?

[Answer] One should not as a rule announce the figure before OPEC does as this will affect the situation of our daily sales market. However, there is talk of 50 cents, 70 cents and other figures. But since this should not be announced, even though this may have been quoted everywhere, one should not announce this until we inform our customers at a certain definite hour.

What is more important here is to safeguard the existing market. We might possibly be able to obtain some new markets. Of course, nothing substantial. God willing, within the next month we will be able to announce by how much this price change will increase our production.

[Question] Following the squabbles which took place in the recent session between the OPEC countries, how do you forecast the situation?

[Answer] We believe that we should safeguard OPEC by all means. It is true that now a number of people are abusing it and it is also true that there might be some sort of a tool which does not safeguard the interests of OPEC. [as heard]

However, the way things are now is tantamount to a thorn being put in the side of the enemies of OPEC. As you may well know, Iran used to have a pro-U.S. position in OPEC. Now, God willing, all these positions will change thanks to the divine will. It is in the interest of countries such as ours to maintain OPEC in any shape or form and we believe that we should maintain it. We will not be stinting in any capital investment required to this end. [end recording]

BAHRAIN ARRESTS IRANIAN 'TERRORIST GROUP'

GF141737 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The Bahraini Interior Ministry yesterday announced the arrest of a group of terrorists who were sent to Bahrain by Khomeyni's government to spread terror and create unrest in Bahrain. The Bahraini Interior Ministry statement said that this terrorist group had received training in Iran and was sent to Bahrain by Khomeyni's government. The Bahraini Interior Ministry also announced that the Islamic Republic had provided the terrorist group with money and weapons and that it planned to assassinate a number of government officials. A considerable amount of weapons and communication devices were seized from these persons.

The Bahraini Government has strongly condemned the Islamic Republic's action of sending terrorists to that country and stressed that this sort of irresponsible action will severely damage Iranian-Bahraini relations. Yesterday the Bahraini Government summoned Hasan Shushtarizadeh, the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic's Embassy, to its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and asked him for an explanation of the matter.

Foreign Ministry Denial

GF141110 Tehran PARS in English 1045 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 13 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY) -- The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran today categorically denied Bahraini allegations that a group of terrorists arrested in that country had been trained in Iran. Mr Ahmad Azizi, the deputy foreign minister, today flatly denied the news and said that possibly hands were at work to accuse the Islamic Republic of Iran of attempting to threaten the stability of the region.

A UPI dispatch from Manama, Bahrain, quoted a statement by the Bahraini Interior Ministry that a group of terrorists trained in Iran had been arrested in Bahrain. The statement broadcast by the Bahrain-based GULF NEWS AGENCY said that "the gang included several Bahrainis, Iranians and others belonging to various (Persian) Gulf states."

Neither the UPI dispatch nor the Bahraini-based news agency disclosed the number of those allegedly detained nor the date when they had been arrested.

SAUDI STATEMENT ON IRAQI POW'S PROTESTED

LD151028 Tehran PARS in English 1922 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 15 Dec (PARS) -- Following the recent propaganda plot to downgrade the victory of the Iranian forces in the recapturing of the border city of Bostan in western Iran, some of the pro-U.S. loudspeakers in the region have rushed to help the Ba'thist regime by issuing statements confirming false Iraqi allegations. Among these sympathisers are Saudi Arabia, North Yemen and Jordan.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, through the Iranian Embassy in Jidda, has protested against a recent statement by Saudi Arabia in connection with the Iraqi captives. The announcement of the Iranian Embassy stressed that the report on the execution of 1,500 Iraqi captives by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran was an absolute lie.

It added that these people were killed in battle on the Bostan fronts and that the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, in order to conceal its defeat, has resorted to such an allegation. The announcement said that such Iraqi lies had precedent, an example of which was when the Iranian forces liberated Bostan but the Iraqi regime claimed that the city was in the hands of the Ba'thist forces. Therefore, the announcement added, Saudi Arabia had only issued such a statement on the basis of the false Iraqi allegations. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed that such acts would weaken mutual relations.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 729 ON FIGHTING

LD141752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Communique 729 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. At 1245 today, 14 December 1981, the proud and heroic pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked the following targets, all returning safely to their respective bases:

1. Shu'aybah refinery in Basra was bombed, and 65 percent damage was reportedly inflicted on it.

2. A concentration of enemy supply forces in a region northwest of (Sakkah) inside Iraqi territory was bombed.

3. A concentration of enemy supply forces was bombed in the (Tuffayr) region.

Over the past 24 hours, fighting took place between the victorious forces of Islam and Saddam's aggressive forces on the Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab axis, and yesterday, continuing its futile efforts, the enemy once again attempted a counteroffensive. However, thanks to the timely response by the defenders of the Islamic revolution, the enemy counter-offensive was smashed within 5 hours and the aggressors were routed. In this clash a quantity of enemy equipment and arms was destroyed, some units of the aggressive elements were surrounded by our own forces and close combat is continuing. In the Gilan-e Gharb region, firing by Islam's combatants destroyed 13 trenches, a 106-mm gun and an enemy arms depot. Several tanks were also damaged.

On other western fronts of the country there were exchanges of fire, the heaviest being in the Nakhlestan, Konjancham and Meymak regions.

Heavy-weapon fire by our forces on enemy positions and trenches in [name indistinct] destroyed two enemy vehicles and four Saddamist trenches, killing or wounding a number of enemy personnel. In addition, our artillery shelling set fire to two large buildings in the Sayyid Sadiq garrison but there is no information regarding casualties there.

Firing by the combative personnel of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran on enemy positions destroyed trenches, 14 emplacements of various types of arms and 1 observation post in the Abadan and Khuninshahr regions, and killed 15 Iraqis.

Heavy-weapon fire by Saddam's army yesterday set fire to several residential areas in Abadan, and several of our compatriots in this city were martyred or wounded.

In the Ahvaz region, the combative personnel of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran destroyed an enemy troop carrier and captured three of its crew.

During operations on 12 December 1981, four of our brother warriors from the gendarmerie achieved the lofty status of martyrdom. May their souls be happy.

GUARDS CORPS REPORTS ON RECENT FIGHTING

LD141812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Communique issued by the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Summary] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Last night, as a result of a series of successful operations, the summits of the Siah Kuh heights were recaptured from the aggressive enemy. At 0830 today a glorious banner with the words "There is no god but God" was hoisted over the highest summit of Siah Kuh.

In addition, an Iraqi offensive in the west of the country was repulsed and the enemy was forced to retreat, leaving behind 150 dead and a large number of wounded. In the Avazin region in Gilan-e Gharb, as the result of mortar fire by the guards and artillery fire by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 12 tanks and 9 armored vehicles of the forces of Saddam were destroyed and 50 of their forces were killed.

On the southern fronts, as the result of the guards' mortar fire, two enemy trenches near the Arvand Rud were destroyed and a number of enemy personnel were killed. On the banks of the Karun River, one vehicle, one 50-mm gun emplacement and two RPG-7 emplacements were destroyed with all their weapons and crews.

In a clash with counterrevolutionaries, the guards succeeded in purging six villages around Divandarreh. In these clashes, 8 counterrevolutionaries were killed and 40 weapons of various kinds were seized.

GUARDS REPORT ARREST OF BANI-SADR ASSOCIATE

LD141936 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Excerpt] During the past month, the self-sacrificers of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, with the cooperation of the brothers in the Islamic revolution committees, succeeded in arresting 205 of the hirelings of the reactionary hypocrites organization minigroup, some of whom carried arms, documents and important interorganizational papers, in Tehran. Three of the corrupt royalists who had taken part in various plots against the Iranian Islamic Republican order were arrested by the brother Guards Corps. In addition, one of the associates of Bani-Sadr's disgraced and liberalist front, named Ahmad Ghazanfarpur, who, after the dismissal of the traitorous Bani-Sadr, engaged in activity against the Islamic order which sprang from the blood of tens of thousands of the Islamic nation's martyrs, was arrested in one of the country's northern towns by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. He is at present under detention.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, stressing the need for the constant presence of our ever-alert nation on the scene, requests all dear compatriots to report information relating to this man and to other hireling elements and any suspicious activities by the Eastern and Western associates, to telephone Nos 831111 and 837799.

TURKISH AID TO 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' ASSAILED

TA141125 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Watch the Borders With Turkey"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: In connection with continuous plots and provocations by U.S. imperialism and the region's reactionary regimes against the Iranian revolution and the Islamic Republic, the true revolutionary forces have always cautioned the country's authorities and have demanded that they attach particular significance to the borders between our country and Pakistan, and especially between Iran and Turkey, because through the testimony of events that we have witnessed so far following our nation's glorious revolution, most of the plots and provocations by imperialism and the counterrevolution against revolutionary Iran have been carried out from the borders of these two neighboring countries.

Unfortunately, some of our country's officials have not paid any attention to these warnings, and in the case of Turkey, for example, they have even stated that from the Iranian Government's viewpoint the Iranian-Turkish border is allegedly secure, and that there are numerous possibiliites for improving relations between the two countries. We leave judgment on this to the people themselves. However, we cannot ignore the fact that today Turkey has in fact been transformed into a base of the most violent fugitive counterrevolutionaries, and that it is on the soil of this country that the so-called Iranian Liberation Army is being formed.

It is on the Iranian-Turkish border and inside Turkey itself that the fugitive officers of the Imperial Army are concentrating their forces so that, according to the British newspaper SUNDAY TIMES, they can engage in operations against the mullahs, and in fact against the Iranian nation's revolution and its gains. According to this newspaper, the so-called army which is being formed from fugitive officers and noncommissioned officers of the former Imperial Army on Turkish soil is basically quartered in 8 Turkish villages and 22 makeshift barracks. Irrespective of the difference of views among the leaders of these bands, they all pursue a single goal, namely, to overthrow the system of the Islamic Republic and establish a dictatorial military regime in Iran similar to the regimes of Pakistan and Turkey.

In view of the fact that the supervision of these units and the provision of their expenses and weaponry is with the United States, it must be said that in the link of the chain of plots by world-devouring America, this danger as well is a danger that cannot and must not be underestimated and ignored. In connection with this topic, special attention should be devoted, particularly by officials of the Islamic government, to the fact that all these hostile and conspiratorial activities against revolutionary Iran on Turkish soil are taking place with the knowledge of the Turkish Government. According to Western newspapers the Turkish Government has prepared all necessary facilities for the transfer of these bands. The cars which have been put at the disposal of these anti-Iranian bands bear number plates that do not allow Turkish authorities to search them. Therefore, we draw the attention of officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to this issue and hope that the Islamic authorities will not leave this hostile act by the Turkish Government unanswered.

However, as regards the aim and the Satanic plans of these imperial murderers, let us see what the SUNDAY TIMES is writing in this connection. The SUNDAY TIMES writes: Foremost of all it has been decided that when the mountain roads become passable next spring an assault be mounted on Azarbayjan Province. They hope that the launching of this assault will trigger a nationwide uprising agianst Khomeyni, which according to the SUNDAY TIMES will result in more than 500,000 armed tribesmen joining the attackers. The plan of the fugitive followers of Satan residing in Turkey initially envisages the occupation of Tabriz and then an attack on Tehran. According to the British newspaper, within the country, too, particularly around the former Shahpur and the present Salmas, certain groups of these bands have been concentrated who possess huge stockpiles of weapons and military equipment.

It is said that the commander of these fugitive Aryamehri murdering bands is the traitorous General Bahram Aryana. Former General 'Ali Amiri and former fugitive Admiral Ahmad Madani are reported to be some of his closest associates and colleagues.

What has been stated so far is indicative of the fact that the imperial bans have concentrated on Turkish soil, and are being reinforced for plotting and instigation against liberated Iran in accordance with Pentagon and CIA plans.

Just like Pakistan, Turkey has also been transformed into a base for plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran. We must watch for plots from this side of the border. The people demand that the government take speedy action in this connection and not leave unanswered this hostile policy and relations by the Turkish Government toward revolutionary Iran.

NEPAL

USSR'S KUZNETSOV CONTINUES TALKS IN KATMANDU

BK141727 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] His majesty the king granted audience to First Vice Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet V.V. Kuznetsov at the Royal Palace today. Also present on the occasion were Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa and Soviet Ambassador Abdul-Rakhman Khalil Ogly Vezirov.

First Vice Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR V.V. Kuznetsov said the Soviet Union highly values the peace-loving policy of Nepal. Addressing a function organized by the Nepal-Soviet friendship association and Nepal-Soviet cultural association at the city hall in Katmandu today, he observed that the Soviet people view with sympathy and understanding Nepal's desire to strengthen her independence, develop national economy and raise the living standard of the people. We are ready to continue technical and economic cooperation with Nepal on the basis of mutual benefit, Kuznetsov added.

Earlier, Kuznetsov called on Rashtriya Panchayat Chairman Marich Man Singh at the Rashtriya Panchayat Secretariat.

FINANCE MINISTER MEETS WITH USSR'S LITVINENKO

BK141729 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Committee for External Economic Relations Viktor I. Litvinenko called on Minister of Finance, Commerce and Supply Dr Yadov Prashad Pant at the Finance Ministry in Katmandu today. During the meeting extensive discussions were held on Nepal-Soviet economic cooperation, according to the Finance Ministry.

On the occasion the Soviet side disclosed that further studies would be carried out on the implementation of various feasible projects with the aim of developing water resources and industry in Nepal.

BRIEFS

DELEGATION TO PRC -- A three-member delegation led by Water Resources Secretary Pashupati Prasad Shah left Katmandu for China on 30 November on a weeklong visit at the invitation of the Government of China. [Text] [Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 30 Nov 81 BK]

SRI LANKA

PRIME MINISTER CITES ELECTION LAW CHANGES

BK141134 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Prime Minister Premadasa said yesterday that under the proposed changes to the election law a person will have to vote for the party list in each district and at the same time will have the opportunity to vote for a person of his choice from the list of candidates. He told a meeting in Colombo that under this system a popular candidate even at the bottom of the party list can hope to be elected. A resolution to implement the proposed change in the law was passed at the annual session of the United National Party.

Premadasa in his address yesterday remarked that all political parties consisted of individuals and naturally they have a conflict. What matters was not personal loyalty but loyalty to the political creed of the party. As far as he was concerned, the prime minister said the party came even above himself.